

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 21ST APRIL 2008

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL, B STONE, A R MULCUCK AND
MRS A THROSSELL
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

646. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair at 8.03pm.

647. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Baker. The previously notified reason for absence was **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

648. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

649. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

It was **NOTED** that no financial analysis was available as the end of year figures are being prepared but the Administrative Assistant advised that this Committee has kept within its budget.

650. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 322, Item 585(a)]

(i) Update on LNR Status

Cllr Mulcuck **READ** a letter received from Duncan Robinson, (TMBC's former Chief Solicitor) and gave an outline of a draft agreement between TMBC and the Parish Council to designate the quarry as an LNR.

Cllr Stone added that as Duncan Robinson had now retired, his successor, Ian Henderson, had contacted him to say that as he was unsure of what legalities were required, the document had been passed to a barrister. Cllr Stone will try to speak to the barrister to ascertain if any further information is required.

(ii) Kent Wildlife Trust – Survey of Local Wildlife Sites in Kent

It was **NOTED** that Kent Wildlife Trust would like to carry out a new survey in the quarry.

RESOLVED to accede to this request.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 322, Item 585(b))

Notes of a meeting between young people living in Ditton, TMBC Youth & Play Development Officer and the Parish Council, were **CIRCULATED** and **READ**. Cllr Thwaites **REPORTED** that it had been a very good meeting and the young people were very positive. It was **NOTED** that the project can commence as soon as a decision on which contractor to use to supply the goal end and youth shelter.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the young people said they would like an adventure trail on the recreation ground but there may not be sufficient funds in this grant to cover this but more funding for play equipment should be available in the near future.

(c) TMBC Open Space Strategy – Referred From Parish Council Meeting (Page 322, Item 586)

Cllr Baker's comments which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, were **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to endorse the comments made by East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council regarding the tow path.

(d) Seedling Sycamore Tree – Scott Close(Page 322, Item 587)

A quotation for the removal of the seedling sycamore tree at £400.00 plus VAT had been received.

Discussion took place on whether the residents whose garages are in this area should be asked to contribute to the cost of the removal of the tree and replacement of the fence damaged by the tree.

RESOLVED to ask the TMBC Tree Officer, Liz Guthrie, for advice on the removal of this tree and whose responsibility it would be.

651. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

Notes of a meeting of the Chairman of this Committee with the Chairman of DATs, which included an inspection of the allotments, were **READ**. It was **NOTED** that the allotment holders had asked about the improvements to the main pathway and the possibility of an electricity supply and that they were going to investigate compostible toilets. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the frequency of the inspections was reviewed.

RESOLVED to further investigate and have costings for the various options for the path and agree to three inspections per year taking place in March, July and November. Cllr Mulcuck will undertake the July Inspection and Cllr Mrs Thwaites will do the November one.

652. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

RESOLVED to keep to the same format as in previous years and ask Mr Manser if he would kindly undertake the final judging.

653. **ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION**

The Inspection Report which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the welding work required on the multiplay unit in the Kiln Barn Road play area had been undertaken but that work was required on the roundabout.

654. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

KCC - Proposed diversion of Public Footpath MR493 (part)
Cllr Mrs Throssell said she still disagreed with the re-routing of this path as it would spoil the view of the millpond and it was the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the bridge was maintained. Cllr Stone added that he had recently visited the site and the new route would be dangerously close to the M20 and the proposed boarding would not be a sufficient safety barrier. He advised that he knew others were objecting to this proposed diversion and had requested a site meeting.

RESOLVED TO RESPOND TO THE PROW OFFICER STATING THIS COUNCIL'S OBJECTIONS TO RE-ROUTING THIS PATH AND ADVISE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A SITE MEETING.

Genzyme Ltd - Request to hold Summer Fun Day on KBRRG
Including hire of Carman Room

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST PROVIDED THAT ALL THE USUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRING THE CARMAN ROOM AND RECREATION GROUNDS ARE AGREED TO. ALSO TO ASK THAT IF A BOUNCY CASTLE IS REQUIRED THEN ADEQUATE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE MUST BE PROVIDED. A FEE OF £150.00 WILL BE MADE FOR USE OF THE GROUNDS WHICH INCLUDE PREPARATION OF THE CRICKET PITCH. ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS WILL NEED TO BE AGREED WITH THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Holtwood Rangers FC
Ditton Minors FC

- Request for use of football pitch for Sunday afternoons
Requests from Ditton Minors and Holtwood Rangers to use the pitch closest to the Multisports on alternate Sunday afternoons, both for U15s, were **READ**.

RESOLVED TO GIVE PERMISSION TO DITTON MINORS AS THIS PITCH HAS HISTORICALLY ALWAYS BEEN USED BY THEM BUT TO REQUEST CONFIRMATION OF THEIR REQUIREMENT BY THE END OF MAY OR THE PITCH WILL BE OFFERED TO HOLTWOOD.

655. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

- Holtwood Rangers FC - Letter of thanks to Nigel
THIS LETTER WAS READ AND NIGEL WAS CONGRATULATED BY MEMBERS FOR HIS HARD WORK ON PITCH PREPARATION.
- Kent County Play Fields Assoc - Notice & Agenda for AGM 17th April 2008
READ AND NOTED.
- Letters from Clerk
Letter of apology - Damage caused to NRRG by youths digging to make a ramp
READ AND NOTED.
- Campaign to Protect Rural England - Houses & Gardens 2008
- Countryside Voice – Spring 2008
CLLR MULCUCK TO READ.
- Tonbridge & Malling - Ancient Woodland Survey
CLLR MULCUCK TO READ.
- The Fields in Trust - Fit Focus - Spring 2008
READ AND NOTED.
- Sutcliffe Play - PlayBack – Spring 2008
READ AND NOTED.

656. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Chairman
7th May 2008